



Mishawaka Communicator



Working together to build the "Best Hometown in America" by delivering exceptional services, promoting safe and clean neighborhoods, elevating the quality of life, and inspiring pride in our community.

Mishawaka, Indiana

Jeff Rea, Mayor

October 2008

A Letter from the Mayor

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

One of the City of Mishawaka's most valuable natural resources includes the beautiful flowing St. Joseph River. From wildlife viewing, canoeing, kayaking and general recreational fun, the St. Joseph River provides attractions for all. Perhaps the most desirable attraction for locals and visitors includes boat and bank fishing. Referred to by many as the City of "Fishawaka", the St. Joseph River is a "diverse aquatic ecosystem supporting a large variety of popular game fish species including smallmouth and largemouth bass, walleye, catfish, steelhead trout, and Coho and

Chinook salmon". On any given year, "an average of 14,336 adult trout and salmon migrate from Lake Michigan down the St. Joseph River through the City of Mishawaka to the Twin Branch Dam". The Mishawaka fish ladder is the last ladder in a series of 5 fish ladders that allow trout and salmon to migrate the 67 mile journey from Lake Michigan to the base of the Twin Branch Dam. Two of the best spawning gravel flats for trout and salmon on the St. Joseph River can be found at the Zappia access site, and Kamm's Island in Mishawaka.

Some of the best trout and salmon fishing in the country



occurs in Mishawaka's stretch of the St. Joe River at Kamm Island, Central Park, and the Zappia Access site. Angler Creel Surveys have documented people from all over the United States coming to Mishawaka to fish specifically for trout and salmon. According to the Indiana Department of Natural Re-

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Princess City Progress

More Annexations Proposed

The City received a request in September to annex and zone approximately 94 acres located west of Capital Avenue and south of SR 23. The proposal was made to allow a potential developer to begin the planning and marketing process. A hotel is envisioned as one of the first projects that would be undertaken. This property, and the surrounding undeveloped properties, will likely take decades to fully plan and develop.

The City also received a request from property owners located on the west side of Bremen Highway just north of the intersection of Walter

Street (to annex and zone 18 acres for a mixed commercial and residential development. This is also speculative and if approved would have significant development limitations to engineer due to sight visibility at the top of the hill and the poor clay soils in the area. Annexations are usually the first step in the development process. For example, the property where Heritage Square is located on SR 23 was originally annexed to the City in 1999 with the first significant development on the site not being started until 2005.

A Drop in Building Activity

In 2008, the City has already exceeded our largest construction year ever with more than

280 million dollars worth of new construction permits being secured since January. This is more than double the previous City record. The largest permit was for the St. Joseph Regional Medical Center, but this dollar amount also includes development in virtually all areas of the City. Even with all this activity, summer has been significantly slower than what would historically be expected. In August for example, only 2.2 million dollars worth of new permits were issued compared to 7.8 million in 2007. This drop is likely a result of the significant amounts of new building activity recorded in the last few years and the general slowing of the economy.

This Month:

Fishawaka and Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Update

Next Month:

MS4 Questionnaire

All past issues of the *Communicator* are available at www.mishawakacity.com

Of Special Interest:

Mishawaka's NutraSoil give-away program has come to an end. Due to the popularity of the give-away program and a finite amount of the material, the supply of NutraSoil has been exhausted. The program had been in operation since 1996. NutraSoil was derived from biosolids that were dried in lagoons prior to the construction of the Biosolids facility. The biosolids generated from the current dewatering operation may only be applied to farm fields.

City of Mishawaka 175th Anniversary Road Show:

Mayor Jeff Rea will be at the Battell Community Center on October 28th and November 10th at 6:30p.m. giving a presentation as part of the City of Mishawaka's 175th Anniversary Celebration. The presentation will last around one hour and will be located in the Community Room of the Battell Community Center.

Around the Town

See the complete
city calendar on
the web at:
mishawakacity.com

October:

10th, 11th - Ruby Jazayre presents "Dances for a Festive Night", starting at 7:30p.m. in the Battell Center

11th - The 2nd Annual Benny Leonard Memorial Golf Scramble

18th - Punt Pass and Kick Contest - Sectionals will be hosted at Mishawaka High School starting at 10:00 a.m.

Mishawaka Football League -

Plays Sunday October 5th and 12th at John Young and Hums Schools, starting at noon.

19th - Pumpkin Run 5K Run and Walk at 1:00 p.m. in Central Park

Seussical the Musical -

Presented by the Main Stage Inc. on October 23rd and 24th at the Battell Center at 7:00 p.m. For ticket information contact the Battell Center at 258-1667

Fall Softball -

Plays Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays in October

November:

Singin & Dancin into the Holidays -

Presented by the Company on Nov. 7th, 8th, 14th, 15th, 21st, and 22nd at 8:00p.m. at the Battell Center

A Letter from the Mayor (continued)

sources, (IDNR) an estimated 6 million dollars in revenue is generated annually from Trout and Salmon fishing along the St. Joseph River. To make sure the excellent fishing waters of the St. Joseph River continue to make a large economic impact on Mishawaka, staff from the IDNR at the Bodine State Fish Hatchery, produce approximately 275,000 Steelhead and Trout and 90,000 Coho Salmon annually.

Although you can catch Steelhead and Trout year round, the best time to fish for them is in the Fall from August through September or in the Spring from March through April. Various artificial and live baits or a combination of the two can be used to catch Steelhead and Trout from the riverbank or boat.

Many anglers can be found fishing off of the riverbanks or wading into the shallows where the river current is strong. Attractable and popular bank fishing sites include Twin Branch Dam on Power Drive, Zappia Public Access on LWE and Capital Ave and Central Park on Mishawaka Ave. The city of Mishawaka also offers St. Joseph River access for those who prefer to fish the river from a boat. Lincoln Park, Merrifield Park, and Monkey Island (Miami Island Park) all provide boat launch sites with accommodating parking for vehicle and boat trailers.

Want more information on the St. Joseph River fishing conditions? The Indiana Department of Natural Resources operates a fishing hotline (574-257-8477) and weekly website fishing report (www.wildlife.in.gov) pertaining to trout and salmon fishing on the St. Joseph River.



References: Mr. Bob Bell-IDNR Property Manager, Bodine State Fish Hatchery

Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Update

The reduction of CSO that flows into the river during wet weather continues to be one of the City's top priorities. The expansion of the wastewater treatment plant reduced our existing CSO volume by 60%, but much work remains. In 1990 there were approximately 350 million gallons of CSO that flowed into the river. A combination of sewer separation projects and treatment plant upgrades has reduced this annual volume by over 300 million gallons per year.

During 2008 the City of Mishawaka continued negotiation with the EPA, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, and the Department of Justice over its CSO Long Term Control Plan (LTCP). The City is preparing to submit its final draft of the LTCP to the above mentioned agencies by the end of October. The plan will vastly reduce the occurrence of CSO, from the current 50 overflows per year to less than one overflow per year. This plan takes into account the expansion of the treatment

plant and future modifications to the collection system that include increasing existing sewer capacities, additional sewer separation, and storage in underground basins and tunnels. During wet weather these storage facilities will hold back excess flows until the rain subsides. These stored flows will then be put back into the sewer system for treatment at the wastewater plant.

Our goal is to have an approved LTCP by the end of 2008. Once the LTCP is approved, the Department of Justice will incorporate it into a federal consent decree, and mandate the City of Mishawaka to comply to this standard. Because of the high cost of further CSO reductions, it is expected that the implementation of the LTCP will take 20 years to complete. The LTCP implementation schedule will be dictated by our ability to pay for the needed improvements. The cost for meeting the future CSO reduction requirements could exceed \$140 million.

The City of Mishawaka knows its future relies on a clean and healthy St. Joseph River. The Mishawaka Riverwalk, now in its final phases of construction, is a cornerstone of the city's economic development efforts. When completed in 2009, the Riverwalk will connect downtown Mishawaka to many neighborhoods and parks along the river. Protecting the water quality in the river makes good economic and environmental sense. Mishawaka's economy also benefits from hundreds of sport fishermen who visit each year to catch migratory salmon and trout. Recent surveys of fish populations in the river have found over 80 species of fish in the Saint Joseph River. Because of our continuing efforts to improve water quality the fishing is so good that the Department of natural Resources has nicknamed the city "Fishawaka".

Visit the Mishawaka Utilities web site and click on CSO INFO to learn more about CSOs and projects we are implementing to reduce combined sewer overflows